



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

930 East 50th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60615
Phone: (773) 373-3366 * Fax: (773) 373-3571

LaSalle Street Project
Located within the
National Office in Chicago, IL

Telecommunications Project
1131 8th Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Phone: (202) 547-3235
Fax: (202) 547-7397

Wall Street Project
Empire State Building
350 5th Avenue, Suite 2701
New York, NY 10118
Phone: (212) 425-7874
Fax: (212) 968-1412

Entertainment Project
1988 West Adams Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90018
Phone: (323) 634-6300
Fax: (323) 634-8302

Silicon Valley Project
2160 Euclid Avenue
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
Phone: (650) 323-7637
Fax: (650) 323-7639

Peachtree Project
Herndon Plaza
100 Auburn Avenue
Suite 101
Atlanta, GA 30303
Phone: (404) 525-5663 or 5668
Fax: (404) 525-5233

Automotive Project
First National Building
660 Woodward Avenue
Suite 1433
Detroit, MI 48226
Phone: (313) 963-9005
Fax: (313) 963-9012

Energy Project
1600 Smith Street
Suite 3757
Houston, TX 77002
Phone: (713) 571-0881
Fax: (713) 571-0885

July 19, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Michael Copps
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners Martin, Copps, Abernathy and Adelstein:

Government policy that denies poor Americans basic services and suppresses the power of consumers frustrates those very segments of the population most in need of the government's watchful eyes. In the African-American community, we are forever exposed to rhetoric from the corporate community encouraging us to use the tools afforded by the free-market and leverage our strength as consumers. And just when we do, we come face-to-face with proposals to impose access charges and new fees to prepaid calling card services. We oppose this idea.

Let us take a very real, very practical look at who uses prepaid calling cards in the African-American community; consumers living on fixed-incomes; consumers with bad credit; students calling home from school; military personnel living away from home domestically or overseas. African-Americans are represented in each of these categories and would feel the stress of additional charges and fees in their wallets, limiting their ability to keep; in touch with loved ones.

Many consumers who use prepaid calling cards often have no other alternative. A number of phone service providers market these cards to low-income communities because the demand exists for affordable phone service with no additional financial commitment. At a few cents per minute, consumers purchase only the minutes they can buy at that moment. Quality connections without contracts or deposits—what better way to service a large market with limited resources?

The existing system demonstrates a textbook success story for pro-business, pro-consumer market forces working for the benefit of the service provider and the user. Changing the system to add new charges and fees only to load corporate coffers cannot be a policy the FCC should adopt and promote. Choose to keep the burden of new fees off the backs of consumers who are working to overcome economic disadvantage. Please do not impose new fees on prepaid calling cards.

Sincerely,

Reverend Willie T. Barrow
Chairperson Emeritus
Rainbow/PUSH Coalition

Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., Founder & President
Martin L. King, Chairman
www.rainbowpush.org